

## Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 COME-00 OPIC-12 ST-01 A-01 M-03

AID-20 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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NIC-01 OMB-01 EB-11 EA-11 PER-05 RSR-01 /179 W

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R 040940Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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FOR USCOM, OPIC, AF/EX, OPR/ST

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN ETRD RZ PFOR FR

SUBJECT: VEHICLE IMPORTS TO TANZANIA

REF: DAR 2642

1. SUMMARY. TANGOV BACKS OFF EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTRICTION ON VEHICLE IMPORTS. SENIOR TANGOV OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY CONSIDER BAN ON IMPORT FRENCH CARS, HOWEVER, AS ONE MEANS AVAILABLE TO THEM TO INDICATE THEIR ANGER AT FRENCH POLICIES IN AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

2. TANGOV DAILY NEWS REPORTED FRONT PAGE AUGUST 4 QTE WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY MINCOMMWORKS, MR J. LUSINDE, THAT GOVERNMENT IS MAKING PREPARATIONS TO STANDARDISE IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES INTO TANZANIA. WHEN THESE PREPARATIONS READY AND FINALISED,  
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THE MINISTER SAID, ALL THOSE CONCERNED WILL BE ADVISED ACCORDINGLY.

AT THE MOMENT, MINISTER EMPHASIZED, NO HARD AND FAST DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ON INTENDED MOVE TO FURTHER RATIONALISE IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES. END QTE.

3. CHRISTIAN HOFFMAN, MANAGER COOPER MOTORS IN DAR, WHICH AGENT FOR LANDROVER AND VW, TOLD DCM AUG 3 THAT HE HAD BEEN CONSULTED BY LUSINDE IN HIS EFFORT TO WORK OUT SCHEME TO STANDARDIZE AND TO LIMIT NUMBER OF DIFFERENT MAKE VEHICLES IMPORTED INTO TANZANIA. HOFFMAN SAID AUTOMOBILE DEALERS IN TANZANIA HAVE FEARED FOR SEVERAL YEARS THAT TANGOV WOULD SEEK PARTICIPATION IN AUTO BUSINESS, BUT HOPED SUCH PARTICIPATION WOULD NOT FORECLOSE THEIR OPERATIONS COMPLETELY. AGAINST HIS ADVICE, HHOFFMAN, SAID, LUSINDE PUT IN SCHEME THAT TANGOV WOULD HANDLE IMPORT AND SALE OF CARS, LEAVING TO COMMERCIAL SECTOR ONLY SALE UPARE PARTS AND SERVICE. LUSINDE DID NOT RPT NOT HAVE CLEARANCE FOR HIS SCHEME THROUGHOUT TANGOV, HOWEVER, AND HOFFMAN FORECAST ACCURATELY LUSINDE WOULD BACK DOWN. HOFFMAN OPINED LUSINDE PUSHING HIS SCHEME TO ENHANCE HIS OWN PERSONAL POPULARITY.

4. DECISIIN TO BAN IMPORTS ALL FRENCH CARS, HOFFMAN SAID, IS POLITICAL AND REFLECTION ANTAGONISM AT TOP LEVELS OF TANGOV FOR FRENCH POLICIES IN AFRICA. HOFFMAN SOUGHT MITIGATE PUNITIVE THRUST AGAINST FRENCH IN SCHEME BECAUSE LOCAL MANAGER PEUGEOT, BURT SHANKLIN, THOUGH COMPETITOR, IS OLD FRIEND AND WEKK KNOWN RALLY DRIVER IN EAST AFRICA. HOFFMAN SAID HE BLUNTLY INFORMED THAT TANGOV OPPOSED TO FRENCG ARMS SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA, TO RUMORED INTEREST SEVERAL MONTHS AGO OF FRENCH SELLING ARMS TO UGANDA, AND TO FRENCH SUPPORT OF PORTUGUESE. INADDITION, FRENCH OBVIOUSLY UNSYMPATHETIC IN TANZANIA'S EFFORTS TO SPUR ITS DEVELOPMENT, E.G. LACK OF FRENCH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HERE. DECISION ON IMPORT OF FRENCH CARS, THEREFORE, IS ONE WAY FOR TANGOV TO DEMONSTRATE ITS ANGER WITH FRENCH.

5. COMMENT: VARIETY EMBASSY SOURCES CONFIRM ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESTRICTION VEHICLE IMPORTS REPORTED REFTEL NOT CLEARED THROUGHOUT TANGOV AND SCHEME TO LIMIT AND STANDARDIZE VEHICLES NOT YET WORKED OUT. PREMATURE DISCLOSURE MAY FORCE CHANGES IN SCHEME AND DELAY ITS ADOPTION. NEVERTHELESS, WORTH PONDERING RAMIFIVATIONS OF PROPSD BAN ON IMPORT OF FRENCH VEHICLES AS METHOD REPORTEDLY CONSIDERED BY TOP LEVEL TANGOV TO RETALIATE AGAINST FRENC POLICIES-- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ESPECIALLY IF THIS METHOD ADOPTED BY OTHER AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS. CARTER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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